The Power of Prophecy

Around 740 B.C. God prophesied through Isaiah a message of hope, justice, and liberty that was His plan for the whole world. This deliverance would come through His Son whose coming He also prophesied in great detail through the same and other prophets.

If we don't believe the prophecy, we miss out on the fulfilment and the subsequent purpose and harvest of the mission.

Prophecies reveal to us a caring, merciful God.
Prophecies give us hope.
Prophecies grow our faith and confidence in God
Prophecies foster trust in God's unwavering promises.
Prophecies remind us of God's sovereignty, His supreme authority, and ultimate control
Prophecies demonstrate the God of heaven communicating with humanity, sharing His plans for us so that we will be comforted and we will believe.

Whatever you do this Christmas season, we remind you today that the prophecy concerning the Messiah did not end at the manger. Approximately eight hundred years after the prophecy was given, a young man (probably around the age of twenty-eight) stood up in a synagogue in Nazareth and read the same prophecy in Isaiah 61:

"*The Spirit of the Lord is on me because He has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor* … today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

That young man was Jesus, the prophesied Son of God, and His mission had begun – preaching, teaching, nurturing, healing, saving and numerous miracles which preceded His main mission of dying on the cross for the sins of the world and securing redemption and eternal life for all who believe. There is power and purpose in prophecy. As we move forward into the new year, let's believe God's Word and join the mission by continuing His work until His return.

Maurice and Suzanne Elliot